Bible & Daily Living

Good news for the oppressed

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
EXTRA GOOD NEWS FOR THE OPPRESSED
Lesson for December 11, 1983
Bible Study Passage: Isaiah 61:1-7

Introduction

Our world could use a little good news these days. The media overwhelms us daily with news of war, destruction, and tragedy. Quite often we have to look in the hometown newspapers to read some good news!

While the world news is depressing, there is the good news of Advent. Advent is a season of waiting prior to the coming of the Christ. The mood of Advent is best expressed as one of longing for deliverance from oppression, coupled with anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Oppression exists in numerous forms in our world. Oppression is simply defined as bearing unreasonable burdens. People in strife-torn countries are sometimes oppressed with unreasonable taxes and laws. Some people do not enjoy certain freedoms and human rights.

At home here in American oppression exists in the forms of prejudice and greed. Minorities experience oppression from those who would seek to enslave them. Some look upon minorities and the poor and the uneducated as cheap labor.

The good news of the Gospel is that Christ came to "set at liberty those who are oppressed." Christians are to follow his example and refrain from acts of oppression.

A Prophet Against Oppression [Isaiah 61:1-4]

Isaiah was not merely a prophet of doom. He also proclaimed a message of hope. Verse one of chapter forty was put to music in Handel's famous music score, "Messiah." The words, "Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God," rings with the theme of hope for peace from desolation.

Israel faced the destructive powers of her enemies, but Isaiah looked forward to a new day when his war-torn nation would rebuild and prosper once more.

The people of God have a marvelous capacity to rebuild against all odds. When a church is leveled by fire or storm the people rally to replace their center for worship. When cities are devasted by war or hunger, the people of God respond in love and generous giving.

Isaiah was a prophet to brokenhearted and despairing people who feared never seeing their homeland again. His mission was to proclaim an end of exile and the hope of restoration. It would require great faith and effort, but Israel could rebuild her walls and prosper again. No longer would the people of God live under the oppressive rule of the Babylonians.

The Nation's Responsibility [Isaiah 61:5-7]

Restoraiton and freedom from oppression was not handed to the people of Israel on a "silver platter." There was the issue of responsibility of obedience to God and compassion towards the struggles of others.

God's favor and blessing is not simply a free ride to anywhere. God calls us to become ministers of his grace and love in our treatment of others.

Israel, according to Isaiah, would reap a "double portion" of blessing to help compensate for past suffering. But this would not imply that Israel would ignore the aliens in their midst. They would show them grace by hiring them to work in their fields.

Isaiah's message is applicable in every age. Christians have a priestly responsibility to minister to others in the name and spirit of Christ. This responsibility reaches out to our neighbors down the road or around the globe.

We may discover brokenness right outside our "doorstep." We are commanded by Christ not to overlook the suffering that we encounter in our community, because "when you do unto one of the least of these, my (brothers and sisters), you do it unto me."

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois. (WLYP)

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Cantata planned

Five performances have been scheduled for the Christmas season by the Rustburg Christian Chorus.

The Cantata, "A Special Kind of Love," by John W. Peterson will be presented. The group is directed by Teresa Russell. Roy Blankenship is technical director. Narrator is Shelby Cutshall, and soloists are Shelby Cutshall, Pearline Douglas, June Keesee and Morris Stauffer.

Following is the schedule of performances: Dec. 11 - Bloomsboro United Methodist Church; Dec. 16 - Kedron Baptist Church; Dec. 18 - Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church; Dec. 20 - New Concord Presbyterian Church; Dec. 23 - Bethany United Methodist Church.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Program is set Dec. 11

The choir of Liberty Chapel Baptist Church will present a cantata, "O Come Let Us Adore Him" on Sunday evening, Dec. 11 at 7:00 in the sanctuary of the church.

The soloists will be Miss Dana McGrath and Mr. Freddie Wells.

The organist is Mrs. Belle Reynolds and the pianist is Miss Renee Williams.

Everyone is cordially invited.

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WORSHIP

With special program

Liberty Baptist notes 150 years

As Liberty Baptist Church approaches its 150th anniversary, the theme for the program of music on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. will be Singing Through The Years.

The Amazing Grace Choir, the senior adult singers of Liberty Baptist Church, will begin the evening with carols featuring the original words to Silent Night.

The youngest generation of singers, the four and five year olds, will sing their Christmas songs led by Ella Scott and Elaine Stubblefield. This group is composed of: Stephanie Harris, Leah Slade, Susan Williams, Jill Stubblefield, Mike Gillette, Jake Dawson, Josh Harrison, Timmy Jones, John Marshall, Matt White, and Jason Farris.

From the 20th century, the song, Christmas Is Jesus, composed and sung by Joe Vaughan, will follow. Singing with him will be Ann Caldwell, Kristie Mitchell, Dean Hamilton and Anne Hancock.

A Generation of The Future, children grades one through six, will ring their handbells, followed by a sharing of carols from the 16th, 18th and 19th century and traditional Christmas poems.

Completing the program will be a presentation by the Children's Choir of the 20th century children's Christmas musical, "The Late Great Potentate" by Dean and Nelson. Directing the group will be Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan, accompanied by orchestration. Children participating in this choir are: Jamee Dawson, Angela Dawson, Alison Moore, Rhonda Moore, Martha Wingfield, Wade Mays, Matthew Richardson, Laura Williams, Roxanne Williams, Cathy Torrence, Robbie Jones, Thomas Nolen, Martha Nolen, Steve Stratton, Jeff Stratton, Brett Stratton, Rob Williams, Niki Harris, Stacie O'Brien, Lara Slagle, Jody Youngblood, Becca Carter, Jennifer Tweedy, Shannon Williams, Alfonse Cestaro, Jason Fox, Tommy Marshall, Amy Slade, Jennifer White, Roxanne Williams, Daryl Dawson, Tara Johnson, Beth Scott, Kelly Whitehead, and Katie Powell.

Playing the role of the potentate will be Steve Marshall.

Presbyterians set cantata for December 18

A Joyous Choral Celebration of the meaning of Christmas "The New Nativity" will be presented by the Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian Church Choir on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m.

The Cantata, under the direction of Sue Wright will be narrated by Debbie and Charlie Hackney and will feature alto soloists Pat Evans and Sandra Martin; sporano soloists Carolyn Carnefix, Vivian Gosey and Lisa Williamson; pianist, Virginia Carnefix.

Following the Cantata, the women of the church will host a covered dish supper at the church fellowship hall.

All friends and families of the community are cordially invited to share in this celebration of the real meaning of Christmas.

Calendar of Events

Friedship Day at Springfield Baptist

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

Friendship Day at Springfield Baptist Church is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Men's Chorus. The Mount Airy Young Adult Chorus will provide music. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Boyd Christian.

Liberty Chapel plans cantata

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

The choir of Liberty Chapel Baptist Church will present a cantata, "O Come Let Us Adore Him" on Sunday evening, Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church.

'New Nativity' at Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

"The New Nativity," a choral celebration of the meaning of Christmas, will be presented by the Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian Church choir at 5 p.m. at the church. A covered-dish supper will follow the cantata in the church fellowship hall.

'Angle's Song' at Evergreen UMC

MONDAY, DEC. 19

The Evergreen United Methodist Church Choir will present a Christmas Cantata titled "Angel's Song," by John Innes and Don Kruegar at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

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Mrs. Jeffrey Scott Day

Primm, Day are wed

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Primm of Spout Spring announce the marriage of their daughter, Alberta Frances Primm to Jeffrey Scott Day, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Floyd of Lynchburg on Saturday, Dec. 3 at one o'clock in the afternoon in the Eternal Baptist Church in Madison Heights. The Rev. Llewellyn Wade officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Following a wedding trip, the couple will reside in Lynchburg.

Miss Pankey to marry

Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Pankey, Jr., of Appomattox announce the engagement of their niece, Jaqueline Pankey, to Mr. Cecil A. Booker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Booker, Jr., of Gladstone.

Miss Pankey is a graduate of Appomattox County High School, and is employed with K-Mart. Mr. Booker is a graduate of Norfolk State University and is now associated with the printing firm, R&R Donnelley and Sons.

The wedding will take place Dec. 24, 1983 at the bride's church, Springfield Baptist Church, at 2 p.m. The reception will follow the wedding immediately in the social hall.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

The couple plans to reside in Harrisonburg, Va.

Robertsons celebrate 65th

Wednesday, November 30, marked the 65th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. D.N. Robertson of Rt. 3, Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson were honored with a dinner party given by their children on Sunday, November 27th. Those present for the celebration were Annie Goodrich, Liz and Leo Quinn, Kyle and Roberta Coleman of Appomattox; Buddy Eukla, Steve and David and Sheila Evans of Charlottesville; Mike Quinn of Altavista; Pat Quinn, Judi and Warren Coleman of Richmond; Joan and Gary Wooldridge of Lynchburg.

Party slated

On Saturday, December 17 from 5 until 7 p.m. Mrs. Martin Webb, president of the Appomattox Garden Club, along with her husband will entertain members of the Appomattox Garden Club and their guests with a wine and cheese party at the Webb home.

Happy Anniversary
To
Mutti and Pops (Vatti)
From
Robert, Mindy, Albert, Victoria, George, G. Joseph, Daniel
?(Kevin, Kathy & Keith)?

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Good News For Homemakers

Tips for making your holiday cooking easier

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent

Would you like to have some new slick tricks to make your holiday food preparation easier, more interesting and different? This week I wish to share with you some ideas that might be of interest to you. You may wish to clip and save this article so that you can use these ideas maybe from year to year. They are:

--Wreath pancakes are a treat for Christmas breakfasts. Pour batter onto the griddle in a giant doughnut shape. Serve with red cherry syrup and what a nice Christmas treat.

--To make oyster stew that holiday guests will enjoy, put oysters into a blender for a few seconds before cooking. You will have a flavorful stew minus the whole oyster that some people dislike.

--Crispy holiday nibbles can be easily made by melting ¼ cup butter in a heavy skillet or electric skillet. Stir in one tablespoon dry salad dressing mix and 1 teaspoon salt. Remove from heat and stir in 4 cups of ready to eat bite size cereals. Be sure to pick a nutritious cereal that your children enjoy.

--Dabs of leftover dips need not be wasted. Save and use these to top potatoes or to stuff celery sticks.

--A festive breakfast special can be formed from refrigerated cinnamon rolls. Shape these in the form of a triangle with one biscuit at the bottom for a trunk. You have a delightful Christmas tree that can be a good Christmas breakfast anytime. Bake this and drizzle with confectioners sugar. Springle with chopped candied cherries.

--To make smooth and glossy whipped cream, add 3 Tablespoons unsifted confectioners sugar to one cup cream before whipping. Cream will hold its shape and gloss for an hour or two. This is important for a decorated cake or a pie.

--A quick family or company dessert can be made by filling a chocolate cookie crumb pie shell with peppermint ice cream. Drizzle with a thick chocolate syrup. This will be attractive and so delicious.

--Another freezer speciality that will be ready to serve whenever guests drop in can be a mincemeat ice cream pie. Blend 1 cup mincemeat into ½ gallon softened vanilla ice cream. Freeze. When ready to serve, top with warm caramel sauce.

--Cut cookie dough sometimes loses its shape when transferring it from the cutting board to the baking sheet. I'd like to share a remedy with you for this problem. Roll the dough on lightly greased and floured baking sheet or buttered foil. Cut around the design. Remove the leftover dough from between the cookies before baking.

--When cookies stick to the baking sheet, just put them back into the oven a second or two. Cookies will remove easily without breaking.

--Many recipes call for chilled cookie dough. To do so quickly, divide the dough into small portions. Place these in the freezing compartment of your refrigerator where they will chill speedily and soon be ready to use.

--A time saver when you store frozen cookie dough is: Be sure to label your package with baking time and temperature. Then there's no last minute look at the cookbook or scratching to find that recipe.

--A time saver cookie filling can be prepared pie filling. Variety of flavors provide a change from the usual raisin, prune or date fillings. Try some of your favorite fillings such as cherry, apple, blueberry, etc.

--For crispier cut-out cookies, roll the cookie dough on a lightly dusted board and rolling pin with a mixture of ⅓ flour and ⅓ confectioners sugar. You'll be surprised what a difference it will make.

--Don't forget a Christmas feast for the birds. Mold cakes of seed and melted suet in small containers. While the mixture is soft insert a pipe cleaner to use as a hanger. You also may dip pine cones in melted suet and roll in bird seeds. These are great to hang in the tree and birds love them.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or write the Appomattox County Extension Office at P.O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522. It is always a pleasure to hear from you and to help you.

Have a good week!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Creme De Menthe Cake

Cream 1 cup sugar and ½ cup margarine
Add and mix:
1 cup flour (unsifted)
4 eggs
½ tsp. salt
16 oz. chocolate syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla
Bake at 350° for 30 to 35 minutes in greased and floured 9 x 13 pan.
Cool completely.

Icing:
2 cups 10X sugar
4-5 Tablespoons creme de menthe
½ cup butter
Cream and spread on cooled cake.
Refrigerate.
6 oz. chocolate chips
6 tablespoons butter
Melt together and spread on cake.

Local musicians perform

Combining Christmas Cookies with a little work, the music students from the class of Virginia Carnefix performed a Recital of Piano Duets on Monday, Dec. 5.

The duet, an old form of musical work is regaining its popularity in Recitals today.

Those students performing were: David Fenlson, Regina Watkins, Terri Hamlett, Lisa Williamson, Jennifer Foltz, Mary Beth Drinkard, Sherry Wilcox and Shavonne Carr.

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SOCIAL

Time for special event nears

Hear ye, hear ye. All citizens of the realm, hear ye! By proclamation of her majesty, Queen Elizabeth I, know that the evening of December 16 has been named for this season's celebration of the second Annual Renaissance Christmas Dinner.

On this most joyous occasion, you are invited to share with her majesty and her royal court in their traditional Christmas feast of roast beef and ham, parslied potatoes, French cut green beans almondine, winter salad, hot bread, and Christmas pudding.

In addition to this banquet catered by Lady Edith Scruggs and Princess June Chenault, the Royal Court Players and Singers of Appomattox County High as well as the Vinton Handbell Choir, will be on hand to entertain you. So, come ye to the great hall of Windsor Castle (formerly ACHS cafeteria) at 7:00 and join in the merriment.

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